

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A combination patient connector for peritoneal dialysis and device (12) for loading a new closure plug into the patient connector (PK) whose closure plug has already been used, said patient connector comprising a housing and a movable actuator, and said device consisting of a housing (3, 7) containing the new closure plug (1) and of ~~means~~ a reloading device (2, 8) for transferring the new closure plug (1) out of the device (12) and into one end of the patient connector (PK), wherein transferring the new closure plug into the patient connector moves the actuator from a used position to a starting position.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the housing (3, 7) is connectable with the portion of the patient connector (PK) into which the new closure plug (1) is to be transferred.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 2, wherein the housing (3, 7) can be connected with the patient connector (PK) by means of a positive connection.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 2, wherein the housing (3, 7) can be connected with the patient connector (PK) by means of a friction-type connection.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~means (8) for transferring the new closure plug~~ reloading device is engineered as a push-button or turning knob ~~(8)~~ at the opposite end of the housing (7) to where the new closure plug (1) exits the ~~same~~ housing, with an intermediate element being provided between the push-button or turning knob ~~(8)~~ and the new closure plug (1).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~means (2) for transferring the new closure plug (1)~~ reloading device is designed as a holder (2) for the new closure plug (1), the retention force exerted by said holder on the new closure plug (1) being lower than the retention force exerted on the new closure plug (1) in the patient connector (PK).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 1, wherein prior to transfer, the new closure plug (1) is held in a retracted position within the housing (3,7) so as to be protected from contamination.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method for loading a new closure plug into a patient connector (PK) whose closure plug has been used, the patient connector having a movable actuator and being adapted to be connected to a tube inserted into a patient's abdominal cavity for peritoneal dialysis, the method comprising the following steps:

connecting a housing (3, 7) containing the new closure plug (1) with the portion of the patient connector (PK) into which the new closure plug (1) is to be transferred, and

subsequently transferring the new closure plug (1) out of the housing (3, 7) and into the patient connector (PK), said step of transferring moving the actuator from a used position to a starting position, so that the patient connector can be used again.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the housing (3, 7) is connected with the patient connector (PK) by means of a positive connection or a friction-type connection.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the new closure plug (1) is transferred by linear displacement from the housing (3, 7) into the patient connector (PK).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the linear displacement of the new closure plug (1) is triggered by actuation of a push-button or turning knob (8).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein the new closure plug (1) is transferred on account of the retention force exerted by ~~the~~ a holder on the new closure plug (1) in the housing (3,7) being lower than ~~the~~ a holding force exerted on the new closure plug (1) in the patient connector (PK).